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Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Myanmar, Namibia, Paraguay, Philippines, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe: revised draft resolution

Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/165 of 19 December 2016 and its previous relevant resolutions, including those on all relevant internationally agreed development goals, as well as relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, and stressing the need for their full application and implementation for persons with disabilities,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[1] which it adopted on 13 December 2006 and which entered into force on 3 May 2008, a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, recognizing that it is both a human rights and a development instrument, encouraging its ratification by Member States and its implementation by States parties, and taking note of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[2]

Reaffirming also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] which is inclusive of persons with disabilities and in which Member States pledged to leave no one behind, and acknowledging that Member States, while implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2518, No. 44910.
[3] Resolution 70/1.

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Recalling all development and operational frameworks in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Recalling also the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[4] the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[5] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,[7] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[8] the outcome document of the 2016 high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly on HIV and AIDS, entitled "Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030",[9] the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,[10] the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, launched during the first World Humanitarian Summit, and the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),[11] which contain references to the rights, participation, perspectives and well-being of persons with disabilities in development efforts,

Recalling further the outcome document of its high-level meeting on the overarching theme on "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond"[12] held on 23 September 2013 at the level of Heads of State and Government,

Noting that the Commission for Social Development decided to review, beginning at its fifty-seventh session, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[13] and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[14] by proceeding to the review of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond,[15]

Reaffirming the follow-up and review of progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the inclusion of persons with disabilities as stakeholders in its work, as set out in resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013,

Noting the panel discussion organized by the President of the General Assembly held on 13 June 2016 to follow up on the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the

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[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] Resolution 65/1.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[8] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[9] Resolution 70/266, annex.

[10] Resolution 69/2.

[11] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[12] Resolution 68/3.

[13] A/37/351/Add.1 and A/37/351/Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

[14] Resolution 48/96, annex.

[15] Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/3.

follow-up to the outcome of the high-level meeting on disability and development and to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Taking note of the preparation of the United Nations 2018 flagship report on disability and development: realization of Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities, and of the note by the Secretariat which provides an overview of the flagship report,[16]

Recognizing that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population, or 1 billion people, of whom an estimated 80 per cent live in developing countries, and that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by poverty,

Acknowledging the Secretary-General's decision to conduct an institutional review of the current United Nations approach to mainstreaming disability across its operations, which would inform the preparation of an internal policy and action plan to strengthen the ability of the United Nations system to mainstream disabilities, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Gravely concerned that persons with disabilities, including women, children, youth, persons with albinism, indigenous peoples and older persons, continue to be subject to multiple, aggravated and intersecting forms of discrimination, and noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability, in particular the rights of persons with disabilities, as an integral part of the development agenda, major challenges remain,

Concerned that women and girls with disabilities are often among the most vulnerable and marginalized in society and are at a greater risk of experiencing all forms of violence, and recognizing the need for national development strategies and efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities, the elimination of all forms of violence and the realization of their human rights,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities are often disproportionately affected in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters and in their aftermath, and that they may require specific protection and safety measures, recognizing also the need to support further participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development of such measures and decision-making processes relating thereto, in order to ensure disability-inclusive risk reduction and humanitarian action, and recognizing further the special coping mechanisms developed by persons with disabilities to withstand the effects of conflict and natural disasters,

Recognizing also the contribution of families towards ensuring the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others, and that persons with disabilities and their families should receive social protection and assistance to enable the family and its members to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities and to ensure a safe and supportive family environment for persons with disabilities,

Recognizing further the collective responsibility of Governments to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality, non-discrimination and equity at the global level, and in this sense stressing the duty of Member States to achieve the full

[16] A/73/220.

application and implementation of the international normative framework on persons with disabilities and human rights and development,

Concerned that access to health-care services remains a challenge for persons with disabilities, who are more than three times as likely as persons without disabilities to be unable to get health care when they need it, owing to, inter alia, a lack of financial resources and inaccessible public transport and facilities,

Recognizing that eliminating discrimination, ensuring equal access to social protection floors and safety nets and enhancing responsive support and services to persons with disabilities are critical to promoting inclusive development for all,

Recognizing also that, while considerable progress has been made, the mainstreaming of disabilities, including the rights of persons with disabilities, remains a global challenge, and recognizing that further efforts are needed to strengthen the normative and operational links to effectively integrate the rights, participation, perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities in development policies and programmes, and, in particular, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Noting the need for Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to further strengthen the normative framework on disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the pledge of "leaving no one behind" of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to consider disability as a global issue, cutting across the pillars of the United Nations,

Stressing its resolve to build inclusive societies and, in this regard, the importance of mainstreaming the rights, participation, perspectives, needs and well-being of persons with disabilities into all relevant strategies and programmes for sustainable development, and reaffirming the valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities,

Recognizing the rights of persons with disabilities with respect to full, meaningful and effective participation and inclusion in society, and therefore recognizing also that persons with disabilities should have the opportunity to be actively involved in all aspects of public, political, economic, cultural, social and family life, on an equal basis with all others, including in decision-making processes about policies and programmes, including national and international development programmes, with a view to ensuring that such policies and programmes are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities,

Underlining the need for urgent action by all stakeholders towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability-inclusive national development plans, strategies and actions, backed by increased international cooperation and support,

Stressing the need for capacity development efforts aimed at empowering persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to ensure equal access to quality education, full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development, volunteering opportunities and vocational and entrepreneurial training in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence,

Recognizing the importance of promoting accessibility, mobility and road safety for persons with disabilities in the context of cities and other human settlements, and that accessibility is a means of achieving inclusive society and development,

Recognizing also the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace, and stressing that major international sporting events, such as the international Paralympic Games, should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship and tolerance, where persons with disabilities have an opportunity to organize, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities, on an equal basis with others, and where the spirit of fair play prevails, violence is banned and ethical principles are upheld,

Concerned that the continuing lack of reliable statistics, data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to their exclusion in official statistics, presenting an obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation that is inclusive of persons with disabilities, recognizing that high-quality, timely, accessible, reliable and disaggregated data are critical to measuring progress and ensuring that no one is left behind, and further noting the need for enhancing capacity-building support to developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of such data,

Stressing the importance of collecting and analysing reliable data on persons with disabilities following existing guidelines on disability statistics,[17] and their updates, encouraging ongoing efforts to improve data collection in order to disaggregate data with regard to persons with disabilities by sex, age and disability and underlining the need for internationally comparable data, such as but not limited to the United Nations Children's Fund Module on Child Functioning and the tools and materials produced by the Washington Group, to assess progress on development policies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities,

Concerned that the lack of high-quality data required to provide viable baselines and measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities poses a significant challenge to effectively monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for persons with disabilities, and in this regard welcoming the call for the disaggregation of data by disability in the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes the need to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data to measure progress in the implementation of the Goals for persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Inclusive development for persons with disabilities" on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 71/165 of 19 December 2016 and 68/3 of 23 September 2013;[18]

2. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States and United Nations entities that have submitted information on progress made towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including on specific priorities for action, and data and analysis on persons with disabilities, and urges Member States and relevant United Nations entities to submit information for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

3. *Recalls* Human Rights Council resolution 26/20 of 27 June 2014,[19] in which the Council established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, which included making concrete recommendations on how

[17] Such as the *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVII.15) and the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.8).

[18] A/73/211/Rev.1.

[19] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A.

to better promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, how to promote development that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and how to promote their role as both agents for and beneficiaries of development;

4. *Welcomes* the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizes that their participation is integral to the full and inclusive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States and United Nations entities that have drafted strategies outlining their way forward in implementing and monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or are in the process of doing so, and encourages States, with the support of relevant stakeholders, to encourage the participation of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of these strategies and ensure that the strategies are inclusive of persons with disabilities and respect, protect and promote their rights, bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;[2]

6. *Urges* Member States, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, regional integration organizations and financial institutions to make a concerted effort to include persons with disabilities and to integrate the principles of non-discrimination, accessibility and inclusion into the monitoring and evaluation of the sustainable development goals;

7. *Urges* Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, in cooperation with women and girls with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, to design and implement policies and programmes to fulfil the rights of women and girls with disabilities, and to ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is inclusive of and accessible to women and girls with disabilities;

8. *Also urges* Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, in cooperation with persons with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, to design and implement policies and programmes to fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities, including through developing, reviewing and strengthening inclusive policies to address the historical, structural and underlying causes and risk factors of violence against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, and to ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

9. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to foster cooperation and to further improve coordination among existing international processes and instruments in order to advance a disability-inclusive global agenda and to facilitate cross-learning and the sharing of information, practices, tools and resources that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

10. *Reaffirms* that social integration and economic policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health-care services, including for mental health, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

11. *Affirms* that persons with disabilities, including children, have the right to inclusive and equitable education and lifelong learning opportunities on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, and urges Member States to ensure full access to education and lifelong learning opportunities for persons with disabilities

on an equal basis with others by taking appropriate steps through the provision of information in accessible and alternative communication formats, reasonable accommodation and other support, as required;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the rights, participation, perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and response, recognizes the need for their inclusion in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and the transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, and also recognizes the disproportionate impact of disasters on women and girls with disabilities;

13. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders to strengthen ongoing efforts and coordination in the humanitarian, disaster and development spheres towards disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action so as to strengthen resilience, better mitigate risks and support pathways towards recovery and development, including during humanitarian emergencies, for persons with disabilities, and to establish partnerships and networks in the disaster risk reduction and humanitarian domains;

14. *Urges* Member States to ensure that persons with disabilities and their families, including women and girls, have access to a range of support services, information in accessible formats and education, including on how to prevent, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse, as well as how to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular children, have a safe and supportive family environment;

15. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

16. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations organizations and mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility and the regional commissions to make all efforts to engage with and ensure accessibility for the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and, as appropriate, national human rights institutions, in development processes and decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels;

17. *Encourages* the Commission on Social Development, within its mandate, to continue to provide its relevant inputs regarding persons with disabilities to the Economic and Social Council and to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as appropriate, in order to support the relevant discussions on persons with disabilities in the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

18. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt a national disability strategy that can be operationalized, including through measurable and appropriate targets and indicators, and that assigns responsibility to and incorporates the views of a broad range of stakeholders, including persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

19. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to take into account the rights, participation, perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others in ensuring that

all development policies and programmes, including those regarding poverty eradication, discrimination and the elimination of all forms of violence and abuse for women and girls with disabilities, social protection, full and productive employment and decent work, and appropriate measures for financial inclusion, as well as urban and rural planning and accessible community and housing development, including the objectives and principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Goals of the 2030 Agenda, are translated into concrete actions;

20. *Encourages* Member States, international development institutions and other stakeholders, including those in the private sector, to promote accessibility, including through the application of universal design in all aspects of urban and rural development, including the planning, design and construction of physical and virtual environments, public spaces, transportation and public services, as well as to promote access to information and communication, including information and communications technologies and systems, to ensure that accessibility is promoted to achieve inclusive societies and development;

21. *Encourages* Member States to eliminate barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing water, sanitation and hygiene, including physical, institutional, social and attitudinal barriers, and recognizing that assistive technologies help in making water, sanitation and hygiene accessible;

22. *Urges* Member States to strive to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to rehabilitation and other independent living services and assistive technologies to enable them to maximize their well-being and realize their independence and full participation in society;

23. *Urges* Member States and regional and local governments to promote appropriate measures in cities and other human settlements that facilitate the access of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment of cities, in particular to public spaces, public transport, housing, workplaces, water and sanitation, education and health facilities, public information and communication (including information and communications technologies and systems) and other facilities and services open or provided to the public in both rural and urban areas to reduce the inequalities and expedite inclusive and sustainable development for persons with disabilities;

24. *Urges* Member States, at the local, regional and national levels, to improve road safety for persons with disabilities and to integrate road safety into sustainable mobility and transport infrastructure planning and design in cities and other human settlements;

25. *Stresses* the importance of enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities and of promoting sports for athletes with disabilities, without discrimination of any kind;

26. *Welcomes* the contributions made to the trust fund for the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in this regard encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support its objectives, including by providing voluntary contributions;

27. *Requests* the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance, within existing resources, including the provision of assistance for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in particular to developing countries, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with existing international guidelines on disability statistics, to analyse, publish and disseminate disability data and statistics in future periodic reports, as appropriate, on the realization of the Sustainable Development

Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities;

28. *Encourages* the Statistical Commission, within existing resources, to update guidelines for the collection and analysis of data on persons with disabilities, taking into consideration relevant recommendations of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, and also encourages the United Nations system, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, within the scope of her mandate, to strengthen coherence and coordination across the United Nations system in order to promote the availability of internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities and to regularly include relevant data on disability or relevant qualitative facts, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development;

29. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to expedite the mainstreaming of data on disability into official statistics, including by collecting data disaggregated by sex, age and disability status using appropriate measurement tools, including, as appropriate, the UNICEF Module on Child Functioning and the tools produced by the Washington Group, by examining underlying concepts, purposes and advantages of existing relevant data collection tools and instruments and urging all relevant stakeholders to work with the United Nations to provide urgently needed baseline data for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities, to strengthen national capacities in that regard and to enhance capacity-building support for developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States;

30. *Takes note* of the multi-stakeholder panel discussion entitled "Towards inclusive, resilient and sustainable development: an evidence-based approach to the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda", held on 31 January 2018 during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development, and recognizes the importance of undertaking similar discussions and related initiatives in the future and the continued inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the meetings of the Commission for Social Development;

31. *Decides* to change the title of sub-item (b) under social development on the agenda of the General Assembly to read: "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family";

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with all relevant United Nations entities, to submit information to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution and of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities,[4] and to make appropriate recommendations to further strengthen implementation;

33. *Welcomes* the launch by the Secretary-General of the 2018 United Nations flagship report on disability and development on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2018, and, recognizing that high-quality, timely, accessible, reliable and disaggregated data are critical to measuring progress and ensuring that no one is left behind, requests that data collection and analysis continue with a view to informing policymaking, and decides to discuss, at its seventy-fifth session, how best to present these data and findings, including through a flagship report;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the relevant offices in the United Nations system, including the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and other relevant offices, have adequate human and financial resources for the fulfilment of their tasks with respect to their work in mainstreaming the rights, participation, perspectives, needs and well-being of persons with disabilities into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the decision-making processes that impact them.